

Suggestions for Attorneys & Witnesses

*Make sure you divide your time equally between the prosecution side and the defense side

Attorneys

- Reminder: Attorneys must always stand to address the judge
- Help them write questions for the witnesses within the fact pattern of the case. (Reference the Stipulated Facts for Jesse Sunderson; Page 29 and Stipulated Facts for Alli McGraw; Page 33 in your book)
- The first question should always ask the witness their name and how they are involved with this case
- Remind students that they will be allowed to use their written questions on the day of the mock trial (it's helpful to write the questions on the script)
- Review objection sheet the students use during the mock trial located on page 25 of your booklet
- Help both the defense and prosecution attorneys use the facts of the case to find write their opening statements (Page 29 for Jesse Sunderson/ Page 33 for Alli McGraw in your book) Make sure they begin their opening statements with **“Your Honor, members of the jury”**
- Help the defense and prosecution attorneys write their closing arguments (Page 22 in your book and stipulated facts pages) Make sure they begin their closing arguments with **“Your Honor, members of the jury”**

Witnesses

- Help students read their individual part in the script (make sure they read it at least 3 times after that)

- For the Jesse Sunderson case (Pages 30-31 and / Alli McGraw Pages 34-35 in your book) Make copies of these pages to give to the students with their individual parts highlighted. Remind the students that they should carry their part of the script with them when it is their turn to be on the witness stand.
- Explain to the witnesses that the attorneys will be asking questions they have made-up and the witness should answer according to the facts and circumstances provided.
- Explain to the witnesses that they can read any part of their statement from the script; they should use the information from the entire statement and the stipulated facts in the script to answer the attorney's questions.
- Have the defense group (attorneys and witnesses) practice their parts. The attorneys should ask their made-up questions and have the witnesses answer them (encourage them to think like the person from the script) Likewise, the prosecution group should practice their parts.

Jury

- The students who will be on the jury should not be present when you or the Guest Speakers work with the attorneys and witnesses. **We want the jury to know as little about the cases as possible to insure an unbiased sentence as well as simulate a real jury experience.**
- Some suggested activities to do with the jury members when the Guest Speakers are working with the witnesses and attorneys:
 1. Have the Jury Members fill out the **Jury Biography** sheet. (Page 26)
 2. Have the Jury Members do the **Florida Constitution Scavenger Hunt**. (Page 39-41) The Florida constitution is on the Dept. of State's website.
 3. Use a short mock trial with a complete script and have the Jury Members use the **Jury Observation Sheet** to take notes. Let them deliberate and come up with a verdict. (Jury Observation Sheet on Pages 27-28)